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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1963

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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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Port Medical Officer of Health

for YEAR 1963

WATERLOO HOUSE,
WATERLOO ROAD,
BLYTH.
January, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Blyth Port Health Authority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Port Health Administration for the Port of Blyth, for the year 1963.

As in preceding years this report is presented in accordance with the instructions issued by the Minister of Health—Form Port 20, and Circular 33/52. Detailed information will be found in the Sections I to XVI.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 3,179 including Fishing Vessels. This is a considerable decrease on the previous year. Foreign Vessels (Foreign and Coastwise) numbered 368 including Fishing Vessels. The number of arrivals direct from Foreign Ports was also less than the previous year.

The amount of Coal and Coke Shipped from the Port during the year was 5,572,083 tons, this also includes Bunker Coal.

Imports discharged at the Port were: Timber: 17,159 loads, Cement 21,223 tons, Roofing Tiles and Sundries 6,452 tons.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st October, 1952, and deal with the Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, sanitary control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates, etc. Certificates issued will be found in the appropriate Tables.

INSPECTION OF VESSELS

The work of dealing with nuisances and defects (structural and otherwise) will be found in the appropriate tables included in the report.

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, also the Ministry of Transport Surveyors for their help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY AT 31st DECEMBER, 1963

Chairman: Councillor E. Breadin

Vice-Chairman: Alderman F. Rafferty

Alderman Mrs. L. M. Summers

Alderman A. Walton, J.P.

Councillor G. Colpitts

Councillor W. Cox

Councillor J. Haig

Councillor J. Hudspith

Councillor A. H. Payne

Councillor Mrs. M. Purves

Councillor A. Rutherford

Councillor Mrs. M. E. Thompson

SECTION I—STAFF

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
Miss L. Owen ...	Clerk to the Authority	11th Sept., 1960	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff, Borough of Blyth.
Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
Dr. R. Craig ...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st April, 1957	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
Mr. Norman F. Godfrey	Public Health Inspector	1st February, 1957	Public Health Inspectors' Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None
Mr. Robert H. Cramp	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952		None
Miss K. Ireland ...	Office Clerk	7th December, 1959		None

Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell's address:—Waterloo House, Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland.

Telephone No.: Blyth 3226.

SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage Infectious Diseases on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports ...	215	158,864	49	215	—
Coastwise Ports ...	2,804	2,281,157	67	2,804	—
Totals ...	3,019	2,440,021	116	3,019	—

Fishing Vessels—	No.	Tonnage
Foreign	153	10,249
Coastwise	7	2,881

Crews

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
2,873	42,154	1,825	46,852

SECTION III

Character of Shipping and Trade during the year 1963

Table C

Passenger Traffic ...	Number of Passengers INWARDS	105
	Number of Passengers OUTWARDS	127
	Passengers on Temporary Shore Leave	10

There is no regular passenger traffic at this Port (See table for Aliens).

Cargo Traffic ...	Principal Imports	Mining Timber	11,928 loads
		Other Timber	5,231 ,,
		Cement	21,223 tons
		Roofing Tiles	1,922 ,,
		Sundry	4,530 ,,
	Principal Exports	Coal & Coke (Cargo) ...	5,528,161 ,,
		(Bunkers)	43,922 ,,
		Fuel Oil (Bunkers) ...	4,570 ,,
		Sundry	1,531 ,,

Fish landed was valued at £20,215.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:—

FOREIGN PORTS—

Belgium ...	Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Ostend.
Denmark ...	Aarhus, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Fredrikshavn, Nykobing, Mariago, Svendborg, Velsen.
Faeroes ...	Klaksvik, Thorshavn.
Finland ...	Havinga, Helsinki, Kemi, Mariehamn, Sorias, Ventspils.
France ...	Calais, Dunkirk, Honfleur, St. Nazaire.
Germany ...	Bremen, Bremerhaven, Brunsbuttel, Emden, Flensburg, Hamburg, Itzehoe, Rendsburg, Schoorldam, Stade.
Holland ...	Amsterdam, Delfzijl, Dordrecht, Flushing, Groningen, Kampen, Katwijk, Rotterdam, Schveningen, Sluiskil, Terneuzen, Vlaardingen, Ymuiden, Zwartsluis.
Italy	Ancona.
Madiera ...	Funchal.
Norway ...	Aalsund, Bergen, Kristiansand, Odda, Stavanger.
Panama ...	Panama.
Poland ...	Gdansk, Gdynia, Stettin, Swinouisce, Wladyslawawa.
Portugal ...	Bilbao, Lisbon, Setubal.
Spain	Cadiz, Pasages.
Sweden ...	Gavle, Goteborg, Kalmar, Stockholm.
U.S.A.	New York.
U.S.S.R. ...	Leningrad.

SECTION IV

Inland Barge Traffic

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V

Water Supply

Samples have been taken regularly from points on the West Staithes, North and South Side, South Harbour and B.H.C. Waterboat. 85 were submitted for bacteriological examination and of these 17 were found to be unsatisfactory.

In most cases where unsatisfactory samples were taken it was found that there had been bursts in the mains. In all cases, after remedial measures had been taken, check samples proved satisfactory.

SECTION VI

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

No change.

SECTION VII

Smallpox

1.—The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No.: Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in Charge of this hospital will be Dr. Gavin Miller, of Sacriston, Co. Durham. His Telephone No. is Sacriston 232.

2.—The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlington Local Authorities, is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

3.—Name of Smallpox Consultant Available:—

Dr. Wilson Minns,
16, Rectory Drive,
Gosforth, 3,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Telephone No.: Gosforth 5–4282.

4.—Facilities for Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

SECTION VIII

Venereal Disease

No change.

SECTION IX

Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on ships.

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from Foreign Ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports, but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION X

Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in ships

No cases of Malaria have been reported during the year.

SECTION XI

Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected of Plague

Inquiries as to the prevalence of rats are made on all ships in Port (whether in possession of Deratting Certificates or Deratting Exemption Certificates or not) and a systematic inspection is carried out on all ships arriving directly or otherwise from foreign ports.

A systematic search for evidence of infestation is carried out on all vessels.

SECTION XII

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1.—On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.

2.—Rats when caught are examined and facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne for detailed bacteriological examination of any specimens when necessary.

3.—When a vessel is found to be infested with rats notice is served on the Master requesting fumigation. He, through his Agent, gets in touch with an authorised firm of fumigators to carry out the work. The chief and most popular method is by Hydrogen Cyanide. The standard required for International purposes is strictly adhered to. Sulphur Dioxide is now rarely used.

When vessels are undergoing fumigation every precaution is taken, such as posting of notices on the ships, also the fencing off of the gangways to render the process as free as possible from accidents. The minimum period for exposure for this gas is two hours, generally four to six in practice, and this effects a considerable saving of time compared with the older method of Sulphur Dioxide.

Contractors who carry out fumigations HCN at this port are:—

Messrs. A. Milburn & Co. Ltd.,
Mill Dam,
South Shields.

Messrs. Barber & Herron,
Templetown,
Tyne Dock,
South Shields.

4.—In the Construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and with a minimum of timber, it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

Table E

Rodents destroyed during the year in Ships from Foreign Ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	—
Brown Rats	—
Species not known	—
Sent for examination	—
Infected with Plague	—

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits have been put down was 372.

All rats recovered are examined and where any abnormalities are noted are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne for further detailed examination.

Table F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1963 for Ships from Foreign Ports

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)					
—	—	—	—	—	111	111

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1963

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratting Certificates issued				No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping Poisoning, &c.		
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur			
Ships up to 300 tons ...	33	—	—	—	—	33	33
Ships from 301 tons to 1,000 tons ...	46	—	—	—	—	46	46
Ships from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons ...	31	—	—	—	—	31	31
Ships from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ships over 10,000 tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	111	—	—	—	—	111	111

SECTION XIII

Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

Table G

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspections ...	S/S 1,067	Nil	230	Defects remedied
Do. ...	M/V 1,952	Do.	139	Do.
Do. ...	F/V 160	Do.	—	—
TOTAL	3,179	Do.	369	Do.

SECTION XIV

Public Health (Shell-fish Regulations) 1934 and 1948

No change.

SECTION XV

Medical Inspection of Aliens

This is not an approved Port for the landing or inspection of Aliens.

The number of Aliens who arrived at the Port was 78 (See Table C, Section III).

SECTION XVI

Miscellaneous

Mortuary—No change.

Food Inspection—No change.

NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS

British	2,616
German	193
Dutch	117
Swedish	32
Norwegian	23
Faeroes	15
Danish	10
Panamanian	6
Finnish	3
American	2
Liberian	1
Polish	1
TOTAL	3,019

FISHING VESSELS

Polish	76
Dutch	70
British	7
German	7
TOTAL	160
GRAND TOTAL FOR THE YEAR	3,179

VESSELS BOARDED

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
7.1.63	M.V. Seefalke (German)	Rotterdam	Engineer	Glandular neck swelling
7.1.63	M.V. Corbeach (British)	London	Radio Oper.	Accident to foot
16.1.63	M.V. Corburn (British)	London	2nd Mate	Influenza
30.1.63	M.V. Ardglen (British)	Portsmouth	Chief Eng.	Accident
1.2.63	S.S. Borde (British)	London	Seaman	Spine Injury
6.2.63	M.V. Corsea (British)	London	2nd Seaman	Influenza
16.2.63	S.S. Hudson Sound (British)	London	2nd Mate	Acute Bronchitis
17.2.63	S.S. Bifrost (Swedish)	Gdansk	Seaman	Septic Hand
19.2.63	S.S. Dynamikos (Panamain)	London	2nd Seaman	Influenza
9.3.63	S.S. Lord Citrine (British)	London	Seaman	Gastric Infection
20.4.63	S.S. Corstream (British)	London	Master	Acute Bronchitis
24.4.63	M.V. Henfield (British)	Portsmouth	Mate	Chickenpox
21.5.63	M.V. Anna Catherina (German)	Tyne Dock	2nd Seaman	V.D.
31.5.63	F.V. Onderming IV (Dutch)	Sea	1 man	Accident to Hand
31.5.63	S.S. Heyshott (British)	London	Matser	Acute Bronchitis
5.6.63	S.S. Heyshott (British)	London	Seaman	Accident to Foot
27.6.63	M.V. Seebar (German)	Hull	2nd Seaman	V.D.
9.7.63	S.S. Heyshott (British)	London	Wireless Op.	Cystitis
30.7.63	W.L.A. 138 (Polish)	Sea	Seaman	Accident to Chest
8.8.63	M.V. Solent (Dutch)	London	Seaman	Stomach Pains
8.8.63	W.L.A. 147 (Polish)	Sea	Master	Kidney Trouble
4.9.63	M.V. Thomas M. (British)	Rochester	Master	Accident to Shoulder
18.9.63	M.V. Simultanity (British)	London	Seaman	Accident to Arm
2.10.63	S.S. Hudson Cape (British)	London	Steward	Gastric Ulcers
3.10.63	M.V. Seaford (British)	Poole	2nd Mate	Gastric Ulcers
16.10.63	M.V. Copsewood (British)	Tyne	Steward	Accident to Ankle
13.11.63	M.V. Brilliant (British)	London	Seaman	Mumps
13.11.63	S.S. Cormist (British)	Amsterdam	2nd Mate	Influenza
18.11.63	M.V. Superiority (British)	Glasgow	2nd Engin.	Heart Attack

VESSELS BOARDED—continued

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
19.11.63	S.S. Hudson Cape (British)	London	Master	Heart Attack (Died)
27.11.63	S.S. Corfoss (British)	London	Seaman	Accident
16.12.63	S.S. Cormead (British)	Rotterdam	Seaman	Accident

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951

Sixteen Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

The charges for the issue of Deratting and Deratting Exemption Certificates were increased from 1st September, 1961, so that some coasting vessels have requested to be issued with Rodent Control Certificates. This latter type of Certificate is not valid outside British waters.

VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

	Structural Defects		Sanitary Defects		Total
	Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	
British Steam	—	34	2	175	211
British Motor	8	38	11	74	131
British Sail	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Steam	4	2	3	10	19
Foreign Motor	—	1	—	7	8
Foreign Sail	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	12	75	16	266	369

It was found necessary to carry out disinfestation of crew's quarters on one vessel during the year. This was carried out by the Officers of the Authority.

DEFECTS

	Work in hand	Work completed	Total
Fresh water tanks repaired or renewed	—	5	5
Fresh water tanks cleaned and cement washed	—	29	29
Fresh water systems repaired or renewed	—	16	16
Sanitary tanks repaired or renewed	—	5	5
Sanitary systems repaired or renewed	—	3	3
Sanitary pipes repaired or renewed	—	9	9
W.C.'s discharging on quay	—	13	13
W.C.'s repaired or renewed	—	20	20
Wash Basins repaired or renewed	—	10	10
Showers repaired or renewed	—	13	13
Central heating systems repaired	—	24	24
Crews' accommodation cleaned and painted	—	19	19
Officers' accommodation cleaned and painted	—	12	12
Leaking accommodation repaired	—	5	5
Wash up sinks repaired or renewed	—	4	4
Galleys cleaned and painted	—	22	22
Galley benches renewed	—	1	1
Galley stoves repaired or renewed	—	6	6
Cooking utensils renewed	—	1	1
Galley equipment repaired	—	6	6
Food stores cleaned out	—	7	7
Refrigerators cleaned	—	19	19
Refrigerators repaired or renewed	—	3	3
Scupper pipes cleared	—	20	20
Scupper pipes repaired or renewed	—	13	13
Port lights repaired or renewed	—	51	51
Disinfestation for cockroaches	—	1	1
Refuse deposited on quay	—	11	11
Emissions of smoke	—	14	14
Ventilating systems repaired or renewed	—	7	7
TOTALS	—	369	369

VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS

The following table gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Health Authority, on account of them coming directly or indirectly from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, Typhus Fever, or Relapsing Fever.

1961	From Infected Ports to Blyth		From Suspected Ports to Blyth		Total
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
January	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	1	—	—	1
June	—	1	—	—	1
July	1	—	—	—	1
August	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	—	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—	—
November ...	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	2	—	—	3

During the year an extensive outbreak of Smallpox in Stockholm necessitated strict sanitary measures being applied to all vessels and personnel coming either directly or indirectly from this area.

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